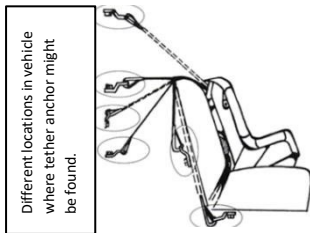
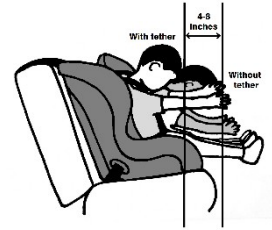


Why and How to Tether Your Child's Safety Seat

How does a tether make my child more secure in the car? The tether strap connector attaches the safety seat directly to the frame of the vehicle at a designated tether anchor. Attached correctly, the tether can reduce the forward motion of the child's head in a crash by 4-to-8 inches, depending on the size of the child and the severity of the crash. Using a tether can stop your child's head from hitting the interior of the car in a crash. It also improves stability in side impacts, important for better protection.



What is a tether strap? A tether strap is webbing that is attached to the top rear of a safety seat on one end and equipped with a hook on the other. All forward-facing safety seats equipped with an internal harness sold in the U.S. and Canada come with a tether strap. Tethers also are used with some travel vests, harnesses, and forward-facing safety seats made for children with special transportation needs.

What is a tether anchor? A tether anchor is a fixed point in the vehicle where the safety seat tether strap or connector attaches. Hardware for at least two, but usually three, tether anchors is found in all vehicles made since the 2000 model year in the U.S. The safety seat tether hook attaches to the tether anchor that corresponds to the selected seating position. Correct tether anchor locations are best located by referring to the vehicle owner's manual. In some vehicles, tether locations have this symbol:



How should I tether a forward-facing safety seat with a harness?

1. Refer to vehicle owner's manual to choose a seating position in the car with a tether anchor.
2. Place the tether strap over the top of the vehicle seat but leave it unattached while you install the safety seat, using the vehicle belt or lower anchor connectors.
3. To check for a tight fit, grasp the safety seat on one side near the belt path where the safety belt or lower connectors pass through the safety seat. Try to pull it toward the front and the sides of the vehicle. If it can be moved more than 1 inch in any direction, try tightening the safety belt or lower connectors. Test again for movement. If the safety seat is not secure, try the other method of installation (lower connectors or safety belt) or try another seating position that also includes a tether anchor.
4. After the safety seat is installed snugly (using either safety belt or lower connectors), hook the top tether strap to the tether anchor in the car and tighten it until all slack is removed.



ALWAYS USE THE TETHER ON A FORWARD-FACING SAFETY SEAT THAT HAS A HARNESS.

May I use a tether for a safety seat facing rear? Very few safety seats have a tether strap that may be used when rear facing. Use of the tether rear facing is safe only if the instructions for BOTH the vehicle and the safety seat allow this.

What if my car does not have a tether anchor? If your vehicle was made before 2001, you may need to get a tether anchor retrofit. Contact the vehicle manufacturer or SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. for more information.*

When not in use, the tether connector should be stored according to the safety seat manual to prevent it from injuring a child in a crash.

*SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. and Toyota Motor North America are working together to encourage tethering of safety seats in most Toyota/Lexus pre-2001 model-year vehicles. The certificate from SBS USA will cover hardware and installation costs of tether anchors in all U.S. states but Hawaii. Please apply for an installation certificate online at www.carseat.org. Call the Safe Ride Helpline at 800/745-7233 with additional questions about this program and programs available from other vehicle manufacturers.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. 3 www.carseat.org
800/745-SAFE (English) 800/747-SANO (Spanish)

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